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10 **Claims**

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1. A method of providing an accounting service in a mobile communication system, comprising the steps of:

15       accessing (**M1**, **M2**) a chargeable functionality of said communication system by a user (**U**), by

          authenticating said user (**U**) by a

authentication/authorization server (**AA-S**), and

20       authorizing said access of said user (**U**) by said authentication/authorization server (**AA-S**); and

          indicating (**M2**), by said authentication/authorization server (**AA-S**), a specific accounting server (**ACC-1**) out of several possible ones (**ACC-1**, **ACC-2**) dependent on the user (**U**), wherein

25       said accounting server (**ACC-1**) is physically separated from said authentication/authorization server (**AA-S**).

30       2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said authentication/authorization server is in a home network of said user.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said chargeable functionality is a service provided in a visited network of said mobile communication system.

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4. A method according to claim 1, wherein said chargeable functionality is a service of said mobile communication system.

5 5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein  
said accessing step is performed by sending an  
authentication/authorization request message (**M1**) from an  
authentication/authorization client (**AAA-C**) to which said  
user (**U**) is currently attached to said  
10 authentication/authorization server (**AA-S**) which replies by  
sending an authentication/authorization answer message (**M2**)  
to said authentication/authorization client (**AAA-C**), and  
wherein said answer message (**M2**) includes said indication  
of said specific accounting server (**ACC-1**) for said user  
15 (**U**).

6. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein  
said authentication/authorization server directly indicates  
said specific accounting server to said  
20 authentication/authorization client, which specific  
accounting server is handling said user and keeps a  
corresponding account.

7. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 6,  
25 comprising the further step of  
requesting (**M3**) an accounting for said chargeable  
functionality from said indicated accounting server (**ACC-1**)  
by said authentication/authorization client (**AAA-C**).

30 8. A method according to claim 7, wherein, during said  
accessing step, said authentication/authorization client  
receives a ticket indicating that said user has been  
granted to access said chargeable functionality, and said  
ticket is sent to said accounting server.

9. A method according to claim 8, wherein said accounting server checks whether accounting for said user is to be started.

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10. A method according to claim 8, wherein said ticket contains at least one of the information of the group of: to which user it belongs, when the access was granted, for how long the access was granted, and from which client the access was granted.

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11. A method according to claim 8 to 10, wherein said ticket is signed by the authentication/authorization server so that it is verified to the accounting server that the authentication/authorization server really has made the ticket.

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12. A system for providing an accounting service comprising means adapted to perform a method according to any of the claims 1-11.

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13. An accounting server device comprising means adapted to perform respective steps of a method according to any of the claims 1-11.

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